pers. In the circumstances, will he be pleased to fix a definite quota of newsprint for the small and medium size newspapers?

*[English]*

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, with regard to the hon. Member's first question as to when the increase has taken place, the answer is 16th June this year. The newsprint industry has increased the price on 16th June 1991. After this increase in price, we had referred this matter to BICP to find out whether this increase in price is justifiable or not. Now we are awaiting their report.

With regard to the allocation of newsprint to the small and medium newspapers, the Registrar of Newspapers is taking care of that. They are going into all aspects, especially the requirement of newspapers and they are doing it.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, it was reported in the newspaper that the imported newsprint prices are going to be increased by 80 per cent. I would like to know from the Minister whether these increases are being made just to keep parity between indigenous production of newsprint and imported newsprint or something else.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, I have already said that the increase in prices of the newsprint has been necessitated by the fact that the cost of inputs have gone up. The raw material cost, the cost of chemicals that go into production, freight charges, energy charges—all these have been increased. Therefore, for the industry there is no other way other than increasing the price. There is no other consideration in this.

With regard to equalising or stabilising the price, the price of imported newsprint is fixed by STC and it is being taken care of by the Commerce Ministry. Of course, they will look into all aspects of it.

**All India Radio Station at Surat**

*233. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had earlier announced their intention to start the Surat Radio Station by the middle of 1991;

(b) whether the radio station has not yet been commissioned and if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the latest position in this regard and the time by which it will be commissioned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) and (b) The project of setting up a Radio Station in Surat was originally planned to be completed by the end of March, 1990. Its implementation has, however, been delayed because of the following factors:

- The land selected for establishment of the project was handed over to Akashvani by the State Government after almost two years of the placement of requisition with them; and
- When the civil works had reached final stages of completion, the contractor, who had been awarded the job to execute the electrical works, withdrew the work force and therefore the work order had to be cancelled. This necessitated retendering of the job.

(c) The civil and electrical works pertaining to the All India Radio

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building are now complete. The transmitter and studio equipment have been received at the site and tower for mounting of the FM Antenna erected. The installation of transmitter and studio equipment has also been started. The new Radio Station at Surat is envisaged to be technically ready for commissioning during 1991-92.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the reply is not correct. Today the population of Surat city is about 18 lakhs. Radio Stations have been set up many years ago in many towns smaller than Surat. When people are enjoying T.V. facilities Government has not take action to set up even a Radio Station or a Studio in Surat. The hon. Minister has said in his reply that land was made available to the Government after two years. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the Central Government did not take any initiative in that regard when I, as Mayor of the Surat Corporation, had already handed over to them land belonging to Surat Corporation in 1986? In his reply he has stated that the Radio Station in Surat would be technically ready for commissioning in 1991-92. What does this mean? Will our Radio Station begin to function or not?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Radio Station will be completed and start working during 1991-92.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got such reply a number of times in the past. I have been raising this issue for the last two years whether it would be started from 91-92. The month of July is ending today but no development has taken place there in this regard. Will you State categorically that the transmitter as well as studio would start functioning by the end of 91-92? Has the Department initiated action to recruit personnel required for it?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): In fact, the hon. Member asked this question previously in an Unstarred Question. Time was given that in 1992 it would be completed. But so far as Government is concerned, Government took all steps. If the hon. Member sees the answer, he will find that both the civil work and the electrical work was assigned to a contractor. The civil work was completed by the contractor. But about the electrical work, after he had half done, he withdrew. So we had to take legal procedure. We sued him for the costs. Then we withdrew the work from him and awarded to another agency which has completed it. It is expected that this will be completed and commissioned fully by March, 1992. I hope, the hon. Member will remain there at the time of inauguration.

**Filling up of Reserved Vacancies for SCs/STs**

*234. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why the reserved vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have not been filled in any recruitment year fully in any group (A, B, C & D) of posts, even after all the exercises over the last forty years or so:

(b) the designations or nomenclatures of posts in each Group (A, B, C & D) for which shortfalls in recruitment have been identified against the reserved vacancies generally and the continuance of such vacancies allegedly for want of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in required numbers or of particular professional and technical disciplines; and

(c) the steps taken for forecasting of the reserved vacancies, for circulation of relevant information sufficient-